

## ***Building Futures Montessori***

### ***Newsletter February 2016***

We would like to welcome all of our new families to the centre. We hope that you are all settling in well and we look forward to getting to know each of you over the coming months. Also a big welcome back to our existing families. We hope you all enjoyed some time with family over the Christmas & New Year period, and look forward to a fun filled year ahead with you all.

#### **IMMUNISATION**

As you should be aware by now, all families must provide the centre with an immunisation history statement. This report is used as proof that a child's immunisation status is 'up-to-date' or 'not up-to-date'. This statement can be:

- \* an official record issued by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR), or
- \* a letter from a recognised immunisation provider (e.g. a GP or immunisation nurse).

The personal Health Record ('red book') from Queensland Health is no longer acceptable proof of immunisation as it only provides handwritten updates. If you have only provided a copy of your child's 'red book' you will now need to provide the official record. You can get a copy of this record held on ACIR:

- \* online through Medicare Online Services
- \* use the Medicare Express Plus App on a mobile or tablet
- \* email [acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au](mailto:acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au) and include your child's full name, date of birth, and Medicare number
- \* call ACIR on 1800 653 809, or
- \* in person at a local Medicare Service Centre

We understand this may be frustrating and time consuming for some, but please be aware it is a legal requirement of your child's enrolment, and we would appreciate your support in this process. Thank you to those families who have already provided us with this information and in advance to those who are yet to.

## WORK CYCLE

Our work cycle starts at 9am. This is a time when your children are involved in a variety of stimulating activities. It is the perfect opportunity for Educators to present lessons, and provide educational experiences. When children arrive late to the centre they miss out on a number of these opportunities. The morning outdoor play allows the children to openly greet their Educators and friends, and for them to exert some energy before their activities inside. We understand that a late arrival may happen sometimes, however we encourage an earlier arrival so that classrooms are not disrupted. If you are unable to arrive by 9am please drop your child at the Office to Georgie or Susie who will be happy to assist and take your child to the classroom. This will allow a better transition for the child, and the other children.

## HAPPY FEET FITNESS

Happy Feet Fitness is back and it's better than ever! This year we are lucky enough to have 2 classes booked on a Monday, one for our Wattles & one for our Orchids rooms. Happy Feet is an interactive adventure class and is packed full of original music, magic, amazing costumes, games and laughter. Happy Feet prides itself on delivering educational content, positive reinforcement and social development skills in a super fun and exciting class format, taking the concept of learning to another level. It's great to see and hear the children talking about the classes with excitement.

## FOOD & NUTRITION

Building Futures Montessori encourages and promotes the health and wellbeing of children through the provision of a healthy and nutritious diet. A well balanced diet is essential to the normal growth, development, behaviour and activity of the child. We recognise the need to develop good nutritional knowledge and healthy eating habits in children. Below we have listed our goals/purpose as taken from our Food & Nutrition Policy.

- We aim to provide 50% of the children's Recommended Daily Intake (RDI) over the course of a full day's care.
- Staff will ensure that healthy eating habits amongst the children are promoted.
- Provide families with nutritional information and food guidelines based on current recommendations from Nutrition Australia.

- Display a daily menu board for families to scrutinize and provide feedback on.
- To provide a safe environment for children with allergies.
- To provide flexible eating periods to cater for different age groups.
- To balance budgetary constraints with nutritional needs and ease of preparation.
- Nut free zone

If you require more information in regards to food and nutrition please visit Nutrition Australia website as they provide education, support and training to shape the health and wellbeing of our community to make informed food choices.

## FACEBOOK

Our closed Facebook page is a great tool for sharing and communicating with our families. Our Educators make every effort to post photos of the children throughout the week but at times this is not always possible, and we appreciate your support and understanding during these times. Please be aware that questions directed towards staff via our Facebook page, will be endeavoured to be answered during business hours, but again this isn't always possible as our Educators spend their days working with, and alongside the children. Questions or comments sent to staff via private message after hours will not be responded to, and in fact we ask that this does not occur as this is a time for the Educators to spend time with their own families and we ask that you respect their privacy after hours.

## BOOK CLUB

We will now be distributing catalogues for Book Club to each family. Scholastic Book Clubs offer a fun and educational activity that helps teachers develop positive attitudes towards books and reading among children and parents. There are 8 issues of Book Club each year. You will receive your catalogue via your child's information pocket in their classrooms. Please note payment for these orders is by CREDIT CARD ONLY online through the Book Club Loop at [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a lot of exciting events, activities and fundraisers planned for this year. We have attached a copy of our Events Calendar so you can keep up to date with what's happening. We will endeavour to provide you with further information and reminders, closer to the times that these events occur.

## NEW EDUCATORS

We would like to welcome some new members of staff to the team. Sarah, Renee & Lauren have recently joined our fantastic team and we would like you to join us in making them feel welcome.

